

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
In Re the Application of
FREDERICO G JAEKEL, et al.

Application No.: 10/777,208

Filed: February 13, 2004

For: HITCH ASSEMBLY



Group Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: Morris, Lesley D.

Confirmation No.: 2479

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the reference(s) has been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c). Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)(1) and (e)(2), the undersigned states that "no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement." To the contrary, the newly cited references were discovered by the undersigned in the Background of the Invention section of U.S. Patent No. 5,011,177 ("Grice"), which was discovered when the cited by the Examiner in the August 12, 2005 Office Action. **Accordingly, no fee is due pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(c)(1) and (e)(2).**

Please credit or debit Deposit Account 033975 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Date: September 28, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin L. Kiersz

Registration Number 51875

Customer Number: 00909

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Telephone: (703) 905-2000

Facsimile: (703) 905-2500

P.O. Box 10500

McLean, VA 22102

